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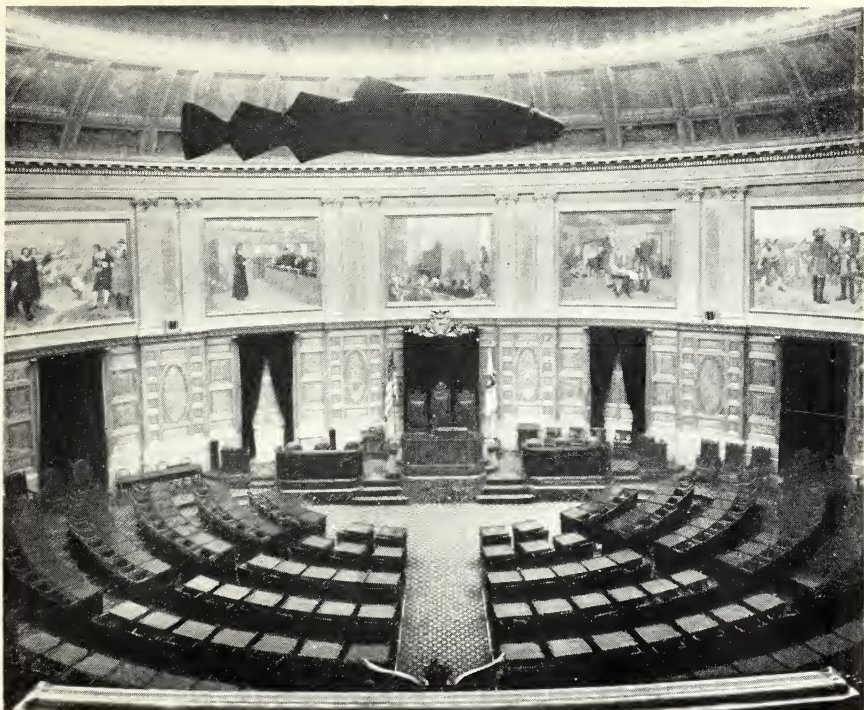


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THE CHAMBER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHOWING THE MURALS OVER THE SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM

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"Milestones on the road to freedom in Massachusetts"

DECORATIVE MURALS

in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, presented to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the painter

ALBERT HERTER

and his son, CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, Speaker of the House

ON DECEMBER 16, 1942

ALBERT HERTER

who devoted the better part of two years in the preparation of the murals was born in New York City in 1871. His career was devoted largely to the painting of murals, although he painted many pictures and portraits which appear in the Metropolitan Museum in New York and other museums throughout the country. His murals now decorate walls in the State Capitols at Hartford, Connecticut, at Madison, Wisconsin, and at Lincoln, Nebraska, the Public Library in Los Angeles, California, the Academy of Science in Washington, D.C., the National Park Bank in New York City, and other public buildings. Between 1925 and 1927, in memory of his older son, Everit, a member of the 40th Engineers, U. S. A., who was killed at Chateau Thierry in 1918, he painted a great mural for the "Gare de l'Est" in Paris depicting the departure of the French troops for the front. For this he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

His wife, Adele Herter, also attained international distinction as a painter.

Printed under the direction of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MICHAEL F. SKERRY, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Compliments of
 STATE SENATOR
 WILLIAM WALL
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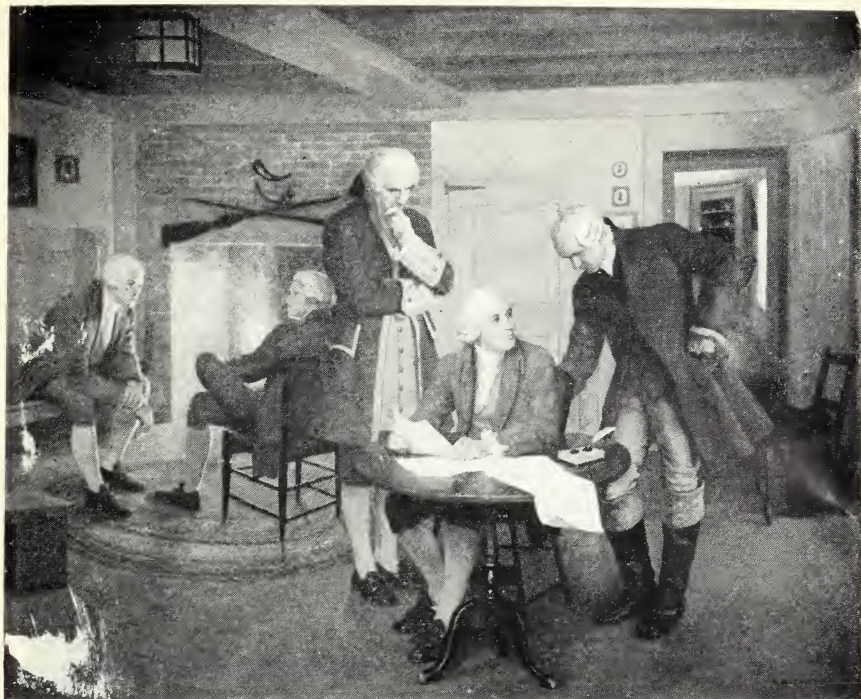
1630 GOVERNOR WINTHROP AT SALEM
BRINGING THE CHARTER OF THE BAY COLONY TO MASSACHUSETTS

THE transfer of the Charter of Massachusetts to New England by Governor John Winthrop was the real foundation of the Commonwealth. The British organization styled "The Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay in New England" had taken over the rights of the former Dorchester Company in 1627 and secured a Charter direct from Charles I in 1629. John Winthrop became governor and, with others, agreed to sail for New England provided the government was transferred thither.

The Charter granted substantially the present area of Massachusetts, except the

Plymouth Colony, with the governing power vested in a governor, court of assistants and freemen who were first the stockholders and later included all respectable land owners. They began to send representatives to attend meetings and so evolved our General Court.

Winthrop with Sir Richard Saltonstall and Rev. George Phillips landed from the ARBELLA on June 12, 1630, at Salem bringing the Charter. The painting depicts their landing and greeting from John Endicott who, five years before, had come from Gloucester to Salem with a group of fifty settlers.



1779 JOHN ADAMS, SAMUEL ADAMS AND JAMES BOWDOIN
DRAFTING THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION OF 1780

IN 1775 after the Concord fight, the revolutionary Provincial Congress declared Governor Gage no longer governor, and ordered an election of a General Court under the Province Charter of 1692. The House thus elected adopted the Charter without a governor placing executive power in the council chosen by the House. In 1776 Berkshire farmers led by Rev. Thomas Allen petitioned for a constitution for the reason "that knowing the strong bias of human nature to tyranny and despotism, we have nothing else in view, but to provide for posterity against the wanton exercise of power, which cannot otherwise be done than by the formation of a fundamental constitution."

A demand for a convention came from Concord also in 1776. The General Court in 1778 submitted to the town meetings a poorly drawn constitution which was rejected because there was no Bill of

Rights and no adequately balanced division of powers of government.

In 1779 a convention, specially elected, met in Cambridge on September 1st. A Committee of Thirty was chosen to prepare a draft. That committee delegated the task to James Bowdoin, Samuel Adams and John Adams. John Adams prepared the first draft which was reported to the Committee of Thirty and, after revision by that Committee, was submitted to the convention. With some few further changes by the convention it was submitted to the people in the town meetings and ratified in 1780.

The picture shows John Adams seated at the table in his house (still standing), in that part of Braintree now Quincy, conferring with his colleagues, Bowdoin and Samuel Adams (to the right, in riding boots), on the first draft prepared by him in September, 1779.



1697 DAWN OF TOLERANCE IN MASSACHUSETTS.
PUBLIC REPENTANCE OF JUDGE SAMUEL SEWALL FOR HIS ACTION
IN THE WITCHCRAFT TRIALS.

FROM the 15th century the existence of witchcraft was a generally accepted belief in the western world, and thousands of persons had been executed for this imaginary crime in France, Spain and elsewhere. During the same period perhaps twenty-five persons suffered in the American colonies. An outbreak occurred at Salem village in what is now Danvers during the year 1692. Some hysterical young women claiming to be bewitched testified against their neighbors and attained so much publicity that Governor Phipps appointed a special court to try these cases. This court, of which Samuel Sewall was a member, sentenced nineteen men and women to be hanged. No witch was ever *burned* in the American colonies. By January, 1693, the community recovered from its frenzy, and those charged with the crime were released. Later the General Court ordained a Fast Day for repent-

ance and all members of the jury signed a confession of their error in convicting the witches. The judgments against the witches were reversed, and the churches blotted from their records the resolutions of excommunication. No people ever so thoroughly and fully repented of their error, and the confession which Samuel Sewall asked to have read on the appointed Fast Day while he stood in his pew in the Old South Church, for all to see, is most typical. It reads in part:

"Being sensible; that as to the Guilt contracted upon the opening of the late Commission of Oyer and Terminer at Salem (to which the order for this Day relates) he is, upon many accounts, more concerned that any that he knows of, Desires to take the Blame and shame of it, Asking pardon of men, And especially desiring prayers that God, who has an Unlimited Authority, would pardon that sin."



1788 JOHN HANCOCK PROPOSING THE ADDITION OF
THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

THE Massachusetts Convention ratified the Federal Constitution in 1788, in the Meeting House in Long Lane (now Federal Street) which stood approximately where the present Chamber of Commerce Building now stands. A strong majority opposed ratification, because of fear of a central government and the lack of a Bill of Rights. Governor Hancock, president of the Convention, being ill, Vice-President, Chief Justice William Cushing presided. After extended debate in which Theophilus Parsons of Newburyport was the leader for ratification, Hancock took his seat as presiding officer on January 31st, 1788, and to meet the opposition submitted proposed amendments prepared by Parsons, not as conditions

of ratification, but as recommendations to be considered by the first congress. This proposal gained the support of Samuel Adams, of Jonathan Smith of Lanesborough in Berkshire County and others and the constitution was ratified. Thus Massachusetts was the first to suggest and adopt the practical method of securing both ratification and amendment. The example of Massachusetts was followed by other states, especially Virginia and New York. The picture shows John Hancock in the pulpit presenting the Amendments (probably drafted by Theophilus Parsons), some of which, later, became parts of the Bill of Rights contained in the first ten amendments submitted by the first congress and ratified.



1689 REVOLT AGAINST AUTOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS. THE ARREST OF GOVERNOR ANDROS.

IMEDIATELY after the restoration of the royalist party to power after the death of Cromwell, trouble began to arise between the government in England and the strong Puritan government in Massachusetts over their rights and privileges under the Charter. These quarrels terminated in the vacating of the Charter by the Court of Chancery in 1684, which left the Colony the absolute property of the King to govern as he saw fit. After a short period all the territory of New England was added to New York and New Jersey, and Sir Edmund Andros, already governor of the two southern colonies, was made governor of all.

Andros was a strong, vigorous character and intended to be the real governor of his whole territory. The entire fabric of representative government was swept away, and Andros with certain men ap-

pointed to assist him started in to rule as a despot. Massachusetts not only no longer had a law-making executive power of her own, but every land title which went back to the authority of the old Charter was declared invalid.

On April 4, 1689, word reached Boston of the landing of William of Orange in England and the flight of James II. Two weeks later on that momentous day in American history, April 18th, Boston was all astir. Armed men were abroad in the streets. Andros quickly retired to the fort, on Fort Hill. John Nelson at the head of a party of men seized some cannon in an outwork and proceeded to the fort. Andros was directed to order the surrender of the Castle or "be exposed to the rage of the people." He did so and thus accomplished a bloodless restoration of the rights of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

